

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /065 W

----- 111003

R 190840 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5253

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0536

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MA

SUBJ: VISIT AALC REPRESENTATIVE

REF: TANANARIVE 0527

SUMMARY: GOMR WOULD LIKE ALLC WITHHOLD POSSIBLE GRANT TO MALAGASY TRADE UNION AND CONSIDER AMONG IT TO COMBINED MALAGASY TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION WHEN FORMED. I THEREFORE BELIEVE IT UNDESIRABLE PROCEED WITH GRANT NOW PROPOSED BY AALC. ANY GRANT TO FUTURE COMBINED CONFEDERATION SHOULD AWAIT ASSESSMENT OF ITS POLITICAL POLICIES AND ATTITUDES. END SUMMARY.

1. GOMR OFFICIAL WITH WHOM I HAD DISCUSSED AALC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOLD ME 18 APR THAT, SINCE MALAGASY TRADE UNIONS ARE PROPOSING AMALGAMATE INTO SINGLE CONFEDERATION, GOMR IS OF VIEW THAT AALC SHOULD WITHHOLD POSSIBLE GRANT TO FEDERATION MALAGASY WORKERS (FMM) , AND CONSIDER MAKING IT INSTEAD TO NEW TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION WHEN FORMED.

2. I ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT GOMR IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHMENT SINGLE TRADE UNION DONFEDERATION. HIS CAREFUL REPLY WAS THAT GOVT IS NOT AGAINST THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. I EXPLAINED THAT I WONDERED WHETHER FISEMA (TRADE UNION FEDERATION AFFILIATED WITH PRO- SOVIET AKFM) WOULD THEN DOMINATE
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TRADE UNION MOVEMENT GIVEN ITS STRENGTH. HE REPLIED THAT STRENGTH OF FMM SHOULD NOT BE UNDERRATED, AND IMPLIED HE FELT IT COULD COUNTER POWER OF FISEMA IN CONFEDERATION. IN RESPONSE MY FURTHER QUERY HE INDICATED THAT SEKRIMA (CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION) IS SMALL AND WOULD NOT COUNT FOR GREAT DEAL IN COMBINED CONFEDERATION

4. INCIDENTALLY, DAILY MADAGASCAR PRESS BULLETIN OF 18 APR REPORTS RETURN OF BLAISE ROBEL, SECGEN OF SEKRIMA, AND DESIRE RALAMBOTAHINA, PRESIDENT OF FISEMA, FROM AFRICAN TRADE UNION MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA AND THEIR AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENTS PRAISING ESTABLISHMENT OF SINGLE AFRICAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION.

5. I TOLD GOMR OFFICIAL WITH WHOM I DISCUSSING POSSIBLE AALC GRANT TO FMM THAT I WOULD PASS ON TO WASH. GOMR REACTION THERETO.

6 . IN VIEW THIS REACTION, I BELIEVE IT UNDESIREABLE PROCEED WITH AALC GRANT TO FMM. WITH RESPECT BOMBART VISIT TO MADAGASCAR, I WOULD BE HAPPY TALK WITH HIM IF HE STILL WISHES COME, BUT, TO AVOID POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION BY GOMR, WOULD WANT BE ABLE PROVIDE PRIOR ASSURANCE TO GOMR THAT IDEA OF AALC GRANT TO FMM DROPPED FOR PRESENT.

7 . AS FOR POSSIBLE EVENTUAL GRANT TO COMBINED CONFEDERATION, I WOULD THINK AALC SHOULD AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS AND CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL POLICIES AND ATTITUDES OF NEW CONFEDERATION.

8. REQUEST DEPT PASS SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE TO BOMBART. IF HE HAS LEFT WASH., THEN SUGGEST DEPT ASK PORT LOUIS DO SO, ON BOMBART' S ARRIVAL MAURITIUS.
MENDENHALL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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